

The Chieftain

WEEKLY EDITION

D. M. MARRS, Publisher

VINITA, I. T., JUNE 11, 1903.

Drainage, pavement, water-works.

Now watch the break for the Rogers band wagon.

What has become of the Vinita Townsite Association? Has it died in the hands of its nurses?

There is a decided lull in railroad building in the territory. Muskogee has not built a new one for two weeks.

The sympathy of the territory press should be extended to Father Holden at the defeat of Bill Hastings, his pet candidate, for chief.

The coming hay crop in the Cherokee nation is going to be immense, and will be a partial offset to the loss of the wheat crop which seems now to be about complete.

Two state governments will cost just twice what one will cost, but then they would afford twice as many offices, hence the politicians want two.

The Sallisaw Star may now suspend the publication of the McConnell report, as nobody is now running for office who were in any way connected with the nigger steal.

One of the great features of the Single Statehood Convention will be the banquet given in honor of the distinguished guests. Shawnee will give them a feast fit for a king.

C. M. Haskell the railroad promoter of Muskogee has now turned his attention to building macadam roads in that town. It might now be in order to raise another bonus.

Chief Buffington's defeat for the Downing nomination may be traceable to his fidelity to the interests of his town and was brought about by those who ought to have been his adherents.

The demand for water works and sewerage is becoming more and more imperative. The health of the town is at stake as well as its business interests. The rate of fire insurance in Vinita is well-nigh prohibitive.

The monopoly of land in the Cherokee nation that was to have ceased with the enactment into law of the Cherokee agreement goes on uninterrupted in many quarters and there has been no prosecutions.

The very excellent article on Indian Territory wild flowers written by Mrs. C. E. Lahman and printed in the Chieftain a few days ago has been reproduced in the Kansas City Star and a number of Eastern papers.

The present indications are that from two thousand to twenty-five hundred people will attend the Single Statehood Convention at Shawnee, June 24, but the plucky city is going to entertain them in royal style.

For the next few years there is going to be a chaotic condition as to public highways. The order of the Indian agent to open sections is in accord with the agreement ratified last summer and will eventually work out all right.

The development of a great iron mine within five miles of Vinita is going to be a small factor in its growth. With coal and iron in easy reach, the raw material question will be settled and the coming of smelters and factories will be inevitable.

Tams Bixby announces that he has secured a wonderful concession from the U. S. Fish Commissioner whereby Indian Territory streams can now be stocked. There has been regular deliveries of fish to territory points whenever requested for a good many years.

Those who oppose sewerage and waterworks for Vinita at an early day are laying up wrath against the day of wrath. If we are overtaken with an epidemic of typhoid fever or other malignant disease the responsibility will surely be fixed where it properly belongs.

The coming campaign for the election of Chief of the Cherokee nation will be the hottest in recent years. Just what will make it so would perhaps be difficult of explanation, but there is a burning desire in many quarters to retain control during the throes of dissolution of tribal government.

The People of Shawnee seem to more than appreciate the honor conferred in selecting their city for the holding of the Single Statehood Convention, June 24, and are making elaborate preparations to impress the visitor that Shawnee is in reality "The Biggest City of its Size in the World."

It will be a great day for the Indian territory when the land offices are closed finally, when the work of the Dawes Commission and the Indian office is at last finished, and the people of this great country have the right to administer their own government. Yes that will be a great day indeed.

For the first time in a great many years both political parties have nominated men with clean records for chief. Neither of the gentlemen now running for Chief have ever been accused of stealing any of the public funds. It took a long search to find two such men prominent in Cherokee politics.

Vinita is situated at the junction of the two great trunk lines of the Southwest. Nearly every important point in the whole country is easily reached by these roads and they can do for Vinita more than all the new lines that are apt to be built. A little thought along this line is in order in these days of expansion and boom.

The closing up of old roads and the opening of new ones along the section lines is causing any amount of trouble and inconvenience throughout this country. There being no bridges and no funds available for building them, the crossings of the streams is a great impediment in the way of making new roads.

Shawnee is slated for two of the biggest events that have ever happened in the two territories—Shawnee Chatauqua and the single Statehood Convention. The former will be held June 6-14, and the latter June 24. The plucky city will have big crowds on her bands for these occasions, but it delights in big things and is equal to every emergency.

The two years of tribal government to come, will be crowded to the utmost in winding up the affairs of the Cherokee people and the time should be utilized to the best advantage. A supplemental treaty providing for the allotment of the surplus lands and a per capita division of the common funds will be matters that will need attention.

The raw methods employed by the Downing party in nominating a candidate for chief to preside over the destinies of the 40,000 Cherokee citizens for the next two years is a little galling to the average citizen. These antiquated methods certainly are out of date in this twentieth century. The people have had nothing to say as to who should serve them as their chief executive.

At the Claremore single statehood convention last year, a delegation of Muskogee men were on hand but gave it out that they must not be considered as favoring single statehood. Within a week these same fellows were the leaders of the movement. Now they have again fallen from grace and it will take another convention like the one at Oklahoma City January 6th, to revive them. But they will come around alright.

The announcement of the International Bank and Trust Company printed in this issue contains one

feature which should be of inestimable advantage to the boys and girls of Vinita who are wage earners. We mean the savings bank branch of the business. The boy or girl who begins saving a few cents a day will find themselves before many years the possessors of a nice nucleus for starting into business for themselves. The habit of saving something from ones earnings is the secret of success. Most of the great "Captains of industry" have begun in this way.

Kansas City tried the experiment of closing all her saloons during the time the floods were highest there last week, to the end that good order might prevail in the stricken city until relief came in the abatement of the waters. It was a good time to be sober and the city authorities thought it wise to do all in their power to maintain order. It was a virtual acknowledgement that the saloons were the chief elements of disturbance and that to insure sobriety in the time of danger and trial they should be closed. But the question arises: Why should it not be a sensible thing to close them all the time? Why does any city government, as to that matter, continue to legalize and maintain a nuisance and a recognized menace to life and property and morals and the chief enemy of civic righteousness.

TAX DODGERS.

No citizen of Vinita has the moral right to dodge his just share of city taxes. It is the plain duty of every good citizen to bear his share of the burdens of government. The tax dodger cannot properly be placed in the list of honest men. If he fails or refuses to list his taxable property he violates both the spirit and the letter of the law, and seeks to thwart the end for which the city is incorporated into a body politic. Our streets are in a deplorable condition, pavement and drainage are needed, and our schools are sadly in need of funds to pay additional teachers, and there are many other matters of pressing public necessity all dependent upon taxation, and certainly no one should try to escape a just share in the burden. For a few of the abler ones to refuse to be taxed in proportion to their worth, is unfair to others who have assumed their part of the obligation. The poor man who is compelled to pay a dollar street tax is doing more in proportion for the upbuilding of the town than the man who is worth many thousands and who successfully dodges a good share of what he ought to pay.

THE LAND OFFICE.

The folly of moving the land office from Vinita at the end of four months, and at a time when there was the greatest rush of Cherokees to file, has been more than demonstrated. The office was in operation at Tahlequah one month and the filing run far below that at Vinita for the same length of time and at no time was there a rush and a crowd about the office at Tahlequah. It is fully proven that the work of allotment could have been greatly facilitated and the end reached much sooner by continuing at Vinita in easy reach of the masses and in the midst of the bulk of the allottable lands. From now on it will be slower than ever at Tahlequah as those in that section who really desired to file have done so, and many of the fullbloods don't care a snap whether they file or not, besides they can get to and from Vinita easier than Tahlequah. The wise course for the Interior Department at this juncture would be to move the office back to Vinita and continue one year without interruption. As has been repeatedly stated in these columns it is not a question of the commercial advantage the office will be to Vinita or to Tahlequah, but the hastening of the work of allotment and the ultimate finish of the wearisome tangle of tribal affairs. It should be the desire and aim of every government official to assist Secretary Hitchcock in every legitimate way in pushing the work to completion.

BADGETT - SANDERS MERCANTILE CO.

There is not a Clothing store in Vinita more complete in all its appointments than ours. We are showing a large line of Men's suits at this time at prices to please. The style, make and fit contained in our \$10.00 and \$12.50 suits equal anything you can find in Vinita at \$15. These prices cover the bulk of the clothing business and we make it a point to show EXCEPTIONAL VALUES at these prices.

If you are interested in a suit for Spring and Summer wear it will pay you to see the styles we are showing at these prices.

BADGETT-SANDERS MERCANTILE CO.

CHEROKEE POLITICS

So far as this section of the Cherokee Nation is concerned the political sentiment is largely one way. That which was at first somewhat indifferent and wavering with reference to the two candidates running for principal chief has swelled into the full tide of strong, sweeping sentiment in favor of E. L. Cookson, the candidate of the National party. There does not seem to be anything against W. C. Rogers other than the opinion prevails that a combination of forces brought about his nomination that is inimical to the public welfare of the Cherokee Nation. The influences that contributed to Rogers' nomination came from the most dangerous element in the nation, the element that is to be dreaded and fought back while the common Indian citizen secures his portion of the tribal estate. No one perhaps believes that Rogers would join in plundering his people, but some of his chief advisers and lieutenants of his campaign have plundered it in the past and the general belief is that they are now seeking another and a better opportunity to do so again and on a much larger scale. The motley, mixed aggregation of scapegraces arrayed in his behalf is enough to frighten a larger and more pretentious government than ours, and to cause thinking men to stop and ponder the situation. The influence of Chief Buffington and especially with the Indian element will be a potent factor in determining who shall wear the toga of Chief after the election in August. Buffington realizes the folly of meaningless party lines without one single issue upon which to divide. He is for Cookson and will wield the full influence of his position in his favor during the campaign and at the election.

Rogers represents the class of Cherokees known heretofore as

land monopolists and whose waning influence and decimated numbers render it no longer a menace nor an element to be feared in an election. He cannot rally to his support the common and excessive land holders as in other years when this class was dominant and swayed elections and dictated administrations and controlled the tribal polity. The element that would naturally rally to Rogers' support has practically disbanded and gone out of business. At the advent of allotment monopoly of land ceased to be possible and the once all powerful influence of the cattlemen has disappeared from the scene. But this disintegration of the monopolistic class has left the common Indian type of citizen in tact, and crystallized the influence, and consolidated the vote of the common Indian citizen.

Startling Evidence

Fresh testimony in great quantities is constantly coming in, declaring Dr. Kings New Discovery for Consumption Coughs and Colds to be unequalled. A recent expression from T. J. McFarland, Bentonville, Va. serves as example. He writes: "I had Bronchitis for three years and doctored all the time without being benefited. Then I began taking Dr. Kings New Discovery, and a few bottles wholly cured me." Equally effective in curing all Lung and Throat troubles, Consumption, Pneumonia, and Grip. Guaranteed by Peoples Drug Store. Trial bottles free, regular size 50c, and \$1.00. dw

Perfect System of Mail Service.

A mail clerk on the Frisco between Vinita and White Oak, eight miles west, picked up ninety-two cents on the floor of a mail car June 1st, the money was sent to the division superintendent and the ownership was traced to Merchant Kilgore at White Oak. It had fallen out of a letter that was addressed to the First National Bank of Vinita which had burst when thrown into the mail car. The money reached the Vinita post office Monday, just eight days from the date of the finding of the coin. This incident is one more guarantee of the safety and the perfection of the government system of handling the mails.

TOWN LOT APPRAISMENT

Delayed Until September For Lack of Funds.

The Cherokee Townsite Commission received notice from Inspector J. George Wright today to not resume the work of townsite appraisal until September first 1903. This is a virtual laying off all the townsite commissions until that date. It is on account of the lack of funds available for carrying on the work and it has been deemed wise to stop all work until that date.

Hot weather Weakness

If you feel lagged off, listless, lacking in energy, you are perhaps suffering from the debilitating effects of summer weather. These symptoms indicate that a tonic is needed that will create healthy appetite, make digestion perfect, regulate the bowels and impart natural activity to the liver. This Herdine will do it; it is a tonic, laxative and restorative. H. J. Freegard, prop. Grand View Hotel, Caney, Kan. writes: "I have used Herdine for the last 12 years, and nothing else can beat it. It was recommended me by Dr. Newton, Newton, Kan. See Peoples Drug Store."

Sage and Farmer.

While at Blue Jacket Sunday W. Crockett spent the day at the beautiful country home of Col. John A. Gore, who is now enjoying the best of health, a fact his many friends will be glad to know. Mr. Gore, not very feeble for some time past, his family were very much concerned about him last winter. He remarks that he had been taking treatment from Dr. Franklin Miles, the famed heart specialist at Elkhart, Indiana, and that now he could do anything and everything that set before him, sleep like a log, you could hear him snoring the night through. He has forty acres of fruit orchard and while the fruit is not yet in season, it looks like he will be comparatively short, it looks like he would have enough apples to supply the Northern district. Also plums are going to yield well.